FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 MAY 1985

Lebanon

East Beirut Car Bomb — An "enormous" car bomb explosion in Sinn al-Fil killed 55 people and wounded 174 others, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The blast, which occurred during the afternoon of 22 May, hit a passing school bus, destroyed several buildings, and caused a big fire in the area.

Fighting in West Beirut — Although Beirut radio said the situation in Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al-Barajinah was calm after the Amal movement entered and took control of the camps on 22 May, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the camps were still full of Palestinian gunmen. Meanwhile, Amal and Progressive Socialist Party officials agreed on measures to prevent further shelling of southern Beirut by Palestinian artillery emplacements in the Mountain area, according to Beirut radio. Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha's command announced responsibility for the shelling, which caused over 80 casualties, the radio said. An Amal movement statement broadcast by the radio warned the "elements serving Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi" who are manning the rocket launchers in the Mountain that Amal will destroy their "shabby heads."

In Libya, a PFLP-General Command spokesman announced that the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF) may take military action to defend the Palestinian camps against the Shi'ites if Syria remains inactive, AFP reported. Noting that Syria faces a serious dilemma over the situation, he disclosed that the Syrian Army has prevented reinforcements from reaching Beirut. For Syria's part, Damascus radio cited a PNSF statement expressing "regret" over the fighting and broadcast a commentary stressing the importance of the PNSF role under current circumstances. The radio reaffirmed Syria's view that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is responsible for the "fabricated events" in West Beirut, adding that the Lebanese Nationalists have the right to refuse to allow 'Arafat and others to restore the previous "anomalous" situation. Meanwhile, Jordan and Iraq expressed support for a PLO request to hold an extraordinary and urgent session of the Arab League Council to discuss the situation of the Palestinian camps in Beirut, Amman radio noted.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian warplanes bombed Iraq's power plant at Dukan in Irbil province early 23 May, inflicting "severe" damage, Iran's Joint Staff Command announced in a statement reported by IRNA. The raid was in retaliation for Iraqi air raids on Iranian economic targets 21 May.

Sudan

Agreements signed with Egypt during former President Ja'far Numayri's regime were "show business" and will shortly be abrogated, Prime Minister al-Jazuli Daf'allah stated in a *SAUDI GAZETTE* interview reported by KUNA. In Khartoum, the daily *AL-AYYAM* disclosed that Numayri, four former judges, and Numayri's legal affairs minister will face charges for their role in the execution of Republican Brotherhood leader Mahmud Muhammad Taha, according to SUNA.

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Presidium Decrees Award to Keshtmand on Birthday

LD221921 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] A decree from the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium in Kabul city dated 22 May concerning the award of the April Revolution decoration to Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers:

The DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, in accordance with Paragraph 5 Article 43 of the DRA Basic Principles, approves:

In appreciation of the valuable services to the PDPA, to the DRA Government, and to the path of revolution and on the occasion of his 50th birthday, the decoration of the April Revolution be awarded to Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers.

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, president of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium.

Seminar Assesses Communications Developments

LD222019 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 May 85

[Excerpt] A seminar of the communication activists of the country including Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the minister of communications; Niaz Muhammad Mohmand, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Adina Sangin, official in charge of the Central Committee's Economic Department; and some members of the Central Committee; deputy ministers; heads of departments and staff of the Ministry of Communications including the communication directors in the country's provinces opened today at the Hall of Amani Lycee.

This seminar was convened to assess the performance of the Ministry of Communications in connection with realizing the PDPA Central Committee's 15th Plenum resolutions and the implementation of the socioeconomic development plan of 1363 [year ending 20 March 1985] and discussion on the implementation of the 1364 [year beginning 21 March 1985] plan. Aslam Watanjar read out the fundamental report, part of which states:

The socioeconomic development plan of 1363, which included 12 transitional and old projects, was approved with capital of 185 million afghani from the state budget, $6 million credit from the friendly Soviet Union and $113 million credit from the Central Bank. During recent years some 160 radio units were installed in various parts of the country whereas prior to the April Revolution, there were only 13 radio units in the country.

In order to maintain international communication by way of satellites for exchanging television programs and bringing Afghanistan into closer touch with the outside world, the (?Sahmshad) unit was installed and began functioning.

The radio broadcast units — of which there were only 8 in the entire country before the April Revolution — now number 20 units which are functioning in the capital and various provinces in the country. This figure indicates an increase of 150 percent compared with the years before the April Revolution. Television broadcasts, which were limited to Kabul city, began functioning in seven other provinces in the country.

Effective measures were also carried out to extend automatic telephone lines. Automatic telephone lines have now increased from 17,700 lines to 225,000 lines. In accomplishing this work a sum of 11.5 Afghani from the normal and development budget was saved.

HAQIQAT-E ENQALAB-E SAWR Cited on Gulf War

LD230809 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 23 May 85

[Text] Kabul, May 22, BAKHTAR — Outrageous anti-war demonstrations have been staged by thousands of Iranians in different cites of Iran such as Tehran, Esfahan, Mashhad, Tabriz, Dezful, Borujerd and others, daily *HAQIQAT-E ENQALAB-E SAWR* writes.

The daily continues that the protest demonstrators demand the full termination of war and the ensuring of a peaceful atmosphere in that country. Whereas, the reactionary ruling regime of Iran intensively continues the anti-people war.

What does the continuation of this war bring about to the peoples of Iran and the region?

The war has left behind it so far over 5 million people dead and wounded for Iran and Iraq. Iran alone has suffered a financial loss amounting at 250 billion dollars. The continuation of the war has also caused sweeping inflation, poverty, high unemployment and other miseries. The prices of the commodities alone have risen 300 percent.

The Iranian regime has raised the rate of taxation, the domestic production has considerably reduced, the factories work under capacity and the construction projects have stopped.

Crushing blows have occured on the production and sale of the oil of Iran. Presently, the volume of oil exports in Iran is reduced to 2.5 million barrels daily.

The continuation of the war serves the political, military and strategic interests of imperialism. The U.S. imperialism under the pretext of its "vital interests" enhances its direct military presence in the Gulf region. It is well remembered that by the beginning of the war, tens of U.S. warships and U.S. aircraft carriers were concentrated in the waters of the Indian Ocean and the Gulf region and the U.S. military bases were further equipped and expanded in the region. The continuation of the war provided the opportunity for the imperialism to revive the "the treaty of regional construction" and caused the consolidation of the relation of the Iranian regime with the reactionary regime of Pakistan and Turkey.

In sum, the continuation of the war has aggravated the condition in the region and has turned the region into a most dangerous area of war.

Voice of Afghanistan on Mujahidin Successes
LD222107 (Clandestine) Voice of Afghanistan in Pashto 1100 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] Samangan: According to a news report from Kholm District, Samangan Province, the courageous soldiers of Islam carried out attacks against the military posts of the Soviet occupiers and their servants: 16 Soviet (?troops) and 6 servant troops were (?killed).

Another report from Samangan Province notes that two oil tankers of the Soviet occupier forces were set on fire along the Mazar-e Sharif-Pol-e Khomri highway by the courageous muhajidin: All its passengers were killed.

Faryab: A report from Faryab Province states that the faithful mujahidin attacked a military post in the [name indistinct] area: 15 Homeland traitors were killed and the post was destroyed. [Passage indistinct] were captured alive by the courageous mujahidin of Islamic Jihad.

Two machineguns, 60 light weapons and quantities of foodstuff were seized by the mujahidin.

Another report from Faryab Province notes that as a result of a mujahidin attack, 1 APC was destroyed, 3 Soviet servants were killed, and 4 servant soldiers of the 35th Maymana Brigade were wounded.

Konar: [Passage indistinct] were killed. A successful attack by the mujahidin resulted in one transport vehicle of the Asadabad being destroyed, and five servants killed. Two Muslim soldiers, who were recently drafted to the division, seized the opportunity to join the ranks of the mujahidin.

Briefs

DPRK Reply to Karmal — Kabul, May 18, BAKHTAR — A message from Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of Korean Workers Party and president of the People's Republic of Korea, addressed to Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, was received here today. The message is in reply to a congratulatory message sent earlier by Babrak Karmal to Kim Il-song, on the occasion of his 73th birthday anniversary. [Text][*Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 19 May 85 LD*]

Delhi: Ershad To Relax Martial Law 'Soon'

BK231019 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 23 May 85

[Text] President Ershad has said he will soon relax martial law and revive political activity in Bangladesh. General Ershad was talking to newsmen at the end of rural elections today in Dhaka. He said he will again invite the political leaders to talks on the country's future. The president also said he will soon free all leaders detained after the martial law was reinforced in March following the talks between them failed.

Foreign Office Announces Ershad Visit to PRC

BK221602 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] President Hussain Mohammad Ershad will pay a 6-day official goodwill visit to China from Wednesday next [29 May] at the invitation of President Li Xiannian. This was announced by the Foreign Office in Dhaka today. Begum Raushan Ershad will accompany the president.

Ershad Message Greets People on Elections

BK221005 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 May 85

[Text] President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has congratulated the people of the country and the chairmen-elect on completion of the first-ever upazila parishad [subdistrict council] elections peacefully. In a message tonight, the president said the upazila system introduced by the government has now taken the final shape and expressed his confidence [words indistinct] for democratic (?politics). He expressed his confidence that when the newly elected chairmen will start functioning with vigor and zeal, they will contribute greatly in building up a happy and prosperous new Bangladesh. The upazila system, the president said [words indistinct] nation building activities.

AFP Summarizes Election Results, Violence

HK211136 Hong Kong AFP in English 1040 GMT 21 May 85

[By Roushan Zaman]

[Text] Dhaka, May 21 (AFP) — At least 12 people were killed and more than 500 injured in widespread violence during rural local government polls on Thursday and yesterday, according to official accounts and reports published here today.

Unofficial sources said at least 1,000 persons were taken into custody during the two days of polling in the rural upazila (sub-district) elections.

At least seven persons were killed and over 200 injured on Thursday, when voters went to the polls to elect administrators for 251 upazilas, official sources said.

The casualties occurred in a series of bomb blasts, outbreaks of fighting and incidents in which police opened fire, they said.

Thursday's violence forced the authorities to suspend voting at more than 100 polling centres in a total of 38 upazilas. Fresh elections were held in these sub-districts yesterday.

At least five persons were killed and 300 injured yesterday, when elections were held in another 207 upazilas, press reports said. The casualties occured when bombs exploded, fighting broke out or when police opened fire, the reports said. Yesterday's violence resulted in the suspension of voting at more than 100 polling centres, an Election Commission source said here.

The source said fresh polls would be held tomorrow at all polling centres where violence and incidents of ballot boxes being snatched forced the commission to suspend voting. In two of the country's newly created 460 upazilas there was no voting because candidates were elected unopposed.

At midday today results had come in from nearly 150 upazilas where voting took place yesterday.

One of the notable candidates to be elected yesterday was Abdul Alim, who served the cabinet of late President Ziaur Rahman.

He was elected chairman of Jaipurhat Upazila.

Results have been announced in only 213 of the 251 upazilas where voting took place in Thursday, violence having forced the suspension of voting in the remainder.

Observers here said they believed that the election turnout on Thursday and yesterday had been higher than that for the referendum in March on Gen. Ershad's rule — despite an opposition call for a boycott of the upazila elections.

The observers said the turnout at the upazila elections was due to the involvement of candidates from a wide spectrum of political opinions.

One analyst here pointed out that despite the boycott call many local opposition leaders contested the elections in their personal capacity, so as not to be left out of local politics.

Observers said a call by the country's two major opposition alliances and the rightwing fundamentalist Jamiat-e Islami Party for resistance to the elections was largely ignored.

The upazila elections were originally scheduled to be held in March last year, but were postponed in the face of opposition boycott threats.

The opposition, whose activities are frozen under strict martial-law regulations, have consistently opposed the holding of upazila elections before national polls.

They have also challenged the very concept of the upazila system of local administrationm arguing that the system was designed to enable Gen. Ershad to perpetrate his rule.

But Gen. Ershad has said the upazila system is intended to "take power closer to the people and ensure participation of the local people in rural development activities."

Martial Law Order Issued on Price Control

BK221209 Dhaka BSS in English 1137 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] Dhaka, May 22 BSS — A martial law order has been issued yesterday enforcing control of the prices of essential consumer goods by the wholesalers and retailers and the members of the public have been requested not to pay increased prices for the commodities.

An official announcement said the price control has been enforced during the month of Ramadan when the wholesalers and retailers charge exhorbitant prices from the people disturbing the market mechanism.

The order said the wholesalers and retailers should hang list of prices of different items in front of their shops and the people have been asked to cooperate with the official check up.

Curfew Lifted During Holy Month of Ramadan

BK221153 Dhaka BSS in English 1130 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] Dhaka, May 22, BSS — In Bangladesh there was no curfew last night on the occasion of the holy month of fasting [Ramadan] and this will remain in force for one month. The curfew has been lifted to facilitate the people to offer prayer in mosques.

Zia Reaffirms Policy of Friendship With India

BK221549 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has reaffirmed that Pakistan is pursuing the policy of developing friendly and good neighborly relations with India. He said that it will be in the best interest of the people of the two countries and will help establish durable peace and stability in the region. This was stated by the president in reply to a message sent to him by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi while overflying Pakistan on his way to the Soviet Union.

The Indian prime minister in his message said that India is fully committed to establishing friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries. He said that the Indian Government will continue to work for achieving this objective in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

President on Ties With India, U.S. 'Pressure'

BK221400 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan has said that the chances of normalization of relations with India have improved since Mr Rajiv Gandhi took over as prime minister. In an interview with a monthly magazine *KAUMI DIGEST*, he said there are now positive developments in this field. President Zia criticized the United States for pressurizing Pakistan to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty without putting similar pressure on nations such as Brazil and South Africa, which are also close to developing nuclear weapons. He said Pakistan is determined to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Trade, Cooperation Pacts Signed with Bulgaria

BK230544 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] Pakistan and Bulgaria signed two protocols, including a barter trade agreement, for the year 1985-86 in Islamabad today. The barter trade agreement envisages a turnover of goods worth $82 million each way, depicting a 100 percent increase in value terms over the previous protocol. It was signed by the visiting deputy minister of foreign trade, Mr Georgi Vutev, on behalf of the Bulgarian government and the federal secretary, commerce, on behalf of the Pakistan Government.

The other protocol is on cooperation between Pakistan and Bulgaria in the fields of culture and arts, information and broadcasting, and education. Under it, the two sides will exchange visits of artists, exhibition of handicrafts and photographs, and visits of museum experts.

Bulgaria has offered three scholarships each year for Pakistani students to study in medical and agricultural universities in Bulgaria. The two countries will also exchange radio programs.

Commentary Blames Kabul for Matanni Incident

BK230737 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 22 May 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] Rejecting a Soviet protest that some Soviet servicemen have been killed in an incident that occurred in Matanni recently, Pakistan has stated that the incident of Matanni has been caused by agent provocateurs from Afghanistan who infiltrated the area and resorted to firing on refugees in Pakistan. The explosives in the possession of the agents detonated during the skirmish in which all the agents along with a number of refugees lost their lives. None of the agent provocateurs were known to be Soviet servicemen and investigations have shown that there were no Soviet servicemen on Pakistani soil.

In rejecting the Soviet protest, the Pakistan reply pointed out that unsubstantiated press reports have been made the basis for Soviet allegation and concluded by reiterating Pakistan's desire for the maintenance and improvement of bilateral relations with the Soviet Union.

Sometimes, interested countries do try to create misunderstanding among nations by putting fictitious stories or by exaggerating incidents of minor nature. It becomes very embarrassing for a small country when allegations of such grave nature are leveled against it. The Russian protest on the Matanni incident is a clear incidence of exploitation by the Babrak Karmal regime which does not want that Pakistan and the Soviet Union should try to develop their bilateral relations. The very allegation that the Russian servicemen were brought onto Pakistan's soil and killed around a refugee camp is a well-determined and preplanned conspiracy against Pakistan. Pakistan always keeps itself away from involvement in the use of force on its soil. All that Pakistan is involved in is in the humanitarian work under which it is looking after 3 million Afghan refugees on its soil.

The fight between the mujahidin and the Karmal and Russian forces has been raging in Afghanistan for quite many years now and both sides have been claiming their victories and losses. As such, it cannot be comprehended as to why the Russian servicemen would be brought on Pakistan's soil and killed here. Pakistan is an independent sovereign country and it realizes international commitments, and it is in its own interest not to get itself involved in such acts.

Besides, both Pakistan and the Soviet Union enjoy good bilateral relations and have been cooperating with each other in many fields. Russia is one of the major countries which have come to the assistance of Pakistan in the establishment of the country's biggest industrial project, that is the Pakistan Steel. The completion of the Pakistan Steel will always remain an emblem of cooperation and friendship between the two countries. Besides, Russia has also been extending economic aid to Pakistan, particularly in the generation of power in Sind. The two countries have enhanced quantum of trade during the last few years and this trade is increasing with the passage of time. It is obvious that Pakistan will be the last country to get itself involved directly in the Afghan or Russian (? affairs). Its main anxiety has always been that the Soviet Union, being a superpower, should honor the

charter of the United Nations and should withdraw its forces from Afghanistan and let the people of that country decide their own fate. Besides, it is the only anxiety of Pakistan that the Afghan crisis should be solved as early as possible so that the 3 million Afghan refugees who have taken shelter in Pakistan may return to their homeland with honor and dignity.

Mujahidin Attacks in Afghanistan Reported

BK230241 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 May 85

[Text] Afghan mujahidin have inflicted severe casualties on Soviet-Karmal forces in two operations in western Afghanistan.

On 7 May, the mujahidin reportedly attacked a military post near (Ghazra) subdivisional headquarters with rockets, killing a number of Soviet-Karmal soldiers.

In another operation, the mujahidin also attacked a military post near Islam Qala and killed many Soviet-Karmal soldiers. They also captured a large quantity of arms during the attack. Nine Karmal soldiers joined the mujahidin.

INDIA

Akali Dal Presidents Reject Longowal Resignation

BK221325 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] The district and state presidents of the Akali Dal-Longowal group have decided not to accept the resignation of the party president, Mr Longowal. At their meeting in Amritsar today, they rejected the resignation of Mr Longowal from the party presidentship and asked him to continue to lead the Dal. Agency reports say that the meeting also rejected the resignations of Mr Prakash Singh Badal, leader of the Akali legislative party, and the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh temples management] committee chief, Mr Gurcharan Singh Tohra.

In the meantime, PTI says that the talks between top Akali leaders to find a formula for unity in the party ended in a deadlock at Chandigarh last night. The four leaders present at the meeting were Mr Prakash Singh Badal, Mr Joginder Singh, Mr G.S. Tohra, and Mr Jagdev Singh Talwandi. Mr Harchand Singh Longowal was not present.

Situation in Gujarat Towns Said 'Peaceful'

BK230349 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 May 85

[Text] In Gujarat, the situation remained peaceful last night in Ahmedabad, Baroda, and Viramgam. No untoward incident has been reported from any of these places since last evening. In view of the improvement in the situation, the authorities have announced further relaxation in day curfew in Ahmedabad and Baroda. It varies from 10 to 13 hours. Only the locality of (Dhana Susadhnipur) in Ahmedabad city will have no relaxation in curfew because of an incident of stabbing yesterday.

Meanwhile, according to delayed a report, one person was killed in Jamnagar yesterday in a stabbing incident. Police were also forced to fire seven rounds to disperse two groups of violent people in which two persons have been injured. Night curfew was imposed in the disturbed areas from 2300 [1730 GMT] Last night.

NEPAL

Three Suspected Sikh Hijackers Detained

NC221825 Paris AFP in English 1816 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] Katmandu, May 22 (AFP) — Three suspected Sikh militants planning to hijack an Indian Airline flight were detained at Tribhuvan International Airport here today, carrying bombs in transistor radios, official sources said.

They were detained while passing through security checks for an Indian Airlines Boeing-737 bound for New Delhi, the source said. They were afterwards held for questioning.

Officials said they thought the three — identified as S.S. Khurana, P.S. Guladi and R.S. Chawla — planned to hijack the airliner, Flight 414, soon after takeoff.

The departure of the aircraft was delayed for more than four hours. Among its passengers was Indian MP and film actor Sunil Dulta.

Nepal has been alerted by the Indian Embassy here to the possibility that Sikh militants might use the airport in their travels to and from India.

The warning has been backed by a dragnet thrown along the 1040-kilometer (650-mile) border with Nepal by the Indian states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. There have been no reports about any arrests resulting from the land operation.

More than 80 people were killed in a series of bomb attacks by suspected Sikh militants in northern India in a two-day campaign on May 10-11. Many of the devices were hidden inside transistor radios.

Police Arrest Protesting Congress Party Members

HK231024 Hong Kong AFP in English 0959 GMT 23 May 85

[Text] Katmandu, May 23 (AFP) — Police arrested some 100 members of a political party banned in Nepal as they began a civil disobedience movement today with a picket at heavily guarded Katmandu courts, party sources said.

More than 400 riot police had been posted in the Nepalese capital today, as the outlawed Nepali Congress Party and pro-democratic students were expected to begin an announced campaign to picket government offices.

Police have arrested some 450 people in Katmandu, Janakpur, Birgunj and Hetaunda districts in the past two days in a bid to stop the campaign, party sources said. No official confirmation on the arrests was available.

The party and students are calling for the dissolution of the 25-year-old partyless government system, the revival of a multi-party system of government, the release of all political prisoners and more effective economic planning.

Girija Prasad Koirala, the party's general secretary, was put under house arrest yesterday and taken into police custody today when he tried to leave his home, a party source said.

His arrest apparently foiled the party's plan to picket in front of the Central Secretariat and the Supreme Court today.

Some 100 party activists and students however staged a brief picket at the heavily guarded district and zonal court offices, raising slogans such as "Long Live Democracy." They were arrested immediatrely.

Riot police today were seen guarding the residences of the party's senior most leader, Ganesh Man Singh, and its president, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai. An official source said the local

administration was on the alert to avoid "possible clashes" between the police and party members. No violence was reported today.

Mr Bhattarai had said that about 100,000 party workers would take part in the campaign, and at least 10,000 of them were prepared to be arrested.

He said he hoped the peaceful campaign would educate the public and the government about the importance of democracy in the country.

SRI LANKA

Premadasa, Hayden Discuss Northern Situation

BK221125 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 22 May 85

[Excerpt] The foreign minister of Australia, Mr Bill Hayden, called on the prime minister, R. Premadasa, yesterday at the (Guru Singhapura) housing and commercial complex in (Peta) which is scheduled to be declared open by the president at 1600 today.

In his talks with the prime minister, Mr Hayden was particularly interested in the giant stride taken by Sri Lanka in the economic field. He wished to know the secret of this success. The prime minister attributed this to the open economic policy, dedication to work, and the political stability that prevailed in the country. The prime minister stated that much more could have been achieved (?if) not for the terrorist menace which had diverted the attention of the government from its battle against poverty to fighting terrorism.

Mr Hayden expressed concern over the escalation of violence and the tragic loss of life and property. Mr Premadasa outlined the series of measures taken by the present government to ease the situation as far as the Tamil-speaking people and the minorities are concerned. All citizens enjoy [words indistinct] have been removed. He said that the demand for separatism is only an external garb which hides the true intentions of the terrorists. The visiting foreign minister inquired as to whether a political solution (?through) consultation and negotiation is not feasible. Mr Premadasa said that ample opportunities have been created for such a political solution. Mr Premadasa added that the objectives of terrorists were very clear. They want to capture power by means of the bullet and establish a totalitarian state in Sri Lanka. Terrorists are being harbored, assisted, and trained by several groups and organizations abroad. The sophisticated weaponry and equipment in the command of the terrorists cannot be purchased through individual collections. There is an unseen hand behind them, he added.

Jayewardene Meets With Religious Leaders 22 May

HK221518 Hong Kong AFP in English 1410 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] Colombo, May 22 (AFP) — President Junius Jayewardene today firmly told the Sri Lanka's Buddhist leaders that although he welcomed their views on religious problems, politics were best left to the government and military matters to the armed forces, government officials said.

Mr Jayewardene made his statements during a 75-minute meeting with the heads of all the country's leading religious groups — Buddhist, Hindu, Christian and Moslem.

The meeting was held against the background of the massacre nine days ago in the Buddhist holy city of Anuradhapura of some 270 people which the government has laid to Tamil separatists.

Diplomatic and political observers here said that they saw the president's statements as an extremely diplomatic way of reasserting the government's authority over the situation since the Anuradhapura killings.

They added that, perhaps more significantly, he was trying to stave off a possible added religious complication in efforts to find a political solution to the Tamil problem.

The separatists want to establish an independent state in the northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.

Twenty religious leaders — nine Buddhists, two Hindus, three Moslem and the rest Christian — met with the president.

This extraordinary meeting was called when the government learned of a proposal made by Buddhist leaders last Saturday that they form an advisory body to assist the government in the current crisis, the observers said.

Saturday's meeting in the city of Kandy was attended by two of the country's leading Buddhist sects and five political parties, excluding the government party but including the opposition party of ex-Prime Minister Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike who was there in person, the observers said.

Government officials briefing journalists after today's meeting said that the venerable Palipane Chandananda Thero of the Asgiria sect, a prominent Buddhist leader, had told Mr Jayewardene that it was normal for Buddhists to turn to their monks for guidance in times of crisis.

The president replied that though he remained in constant consultation with appropriate bodies both lay and religious, it was better to leave military affairs to the military and political affairs to the politicians, the officials said.

He reminded the monks that he had been involved in politics for a long time — about 40 years — and that it would be impossible for him, a Buddhist, to ask monks for advice on, for example, arms procurement, the officials added.

Arms, Mr Jayewardene noted, were weapons of death.

The officials added that the president also rejected the idea of getting all recognized political parties in Sri Lanka involved in consultations when, as he said, some of them were supportive of terrorist aims.

"How can I do this, when some of them want to bring this government down," Mr Jayewardene was quoted as saying.

Other religious representatives made no statement, the officials said. Government officials said the Sri Lankan Parliament is to hold a special two-day session starting tomorrow in which the general security situation will be discussed.

The session has been extended at the special request of the three opposition parties.

Mr Jayewardene also told the religious leaders that the violence was more than an ethnic issue. He told them it was part of an international Marxist oriented plan to bring down democratic governments, State Minister Anandatissa De Alwis said.

The president referred to the attempted assassination of U.S. President Ronald Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the murder of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi as part of the plan, Mr De Alwis said.

Meanwhile government sources said police were probing allegations that security personnel killed more than 75 Tamils in two incidents in the north and east.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that police had begun probing charges by the Citizens Committee of Kalmunai on the east coast that 41 Tamils were killed by police on Thursday.

The group said the Tamil civilians were buried at Thambilivil Cemetery near Kalmunai and that some bodies had been dug up from shallow graves.

Mr Athulathmudali also said that the police were investigating the killing Wednesday of 35 people on a ferry boat plying between islands in the northern waters.

Khamene'i Sends Message to Students in N. America

LD221717 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA — President Khamene'i sent a message to Muslim Iranian students in North America calling on them to work for the benefit of the Islamic revolution and their nation.

The students are holding their 17th seminar organized by the Union of Muslim Students Associations in the United States and Canada.

The associations are supporters of the Islamic revolution and are active in promoting the cause of the Islamic Republic abroad.

Khamene'i said at a time when the sworn enemies of Islam were trying to corrupt the youth, Islamic associations were a necessity.

"Do not allow your brothers and sisters who can be the constructors of their revolution, country and the Islamic world, to turn into faithless, unpious and ignorant elements," he said.

Referring to the ongoing political process in Iran, the president said "our nation is determined to prove that material powers are soulless, and out to frighten nations, rear hopeless intellectuals and conciliatory psuedo-revolutionaries.

He said the Islamic revolution hopes to impress upon them the need to re-evaluate their thinking and future.

"Through your action and speech, you dear ones should take the message of our nation to the students from other countries," he said.

Montazeri Cables Lebanese Clergy on Clashes

LD222128 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 May 85

["Text" of Grand Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri message to Lebanon's Muslim clergymen — read by announcer]

[Text] In his Exalted name. Your graces, Hojaj-e Eslam, learned ulema and committed clergymen of Lebanon, may your bounties increase.

Recent clashes among Muslim groups in the wronged Lebanon have caused me grief and anxiety. The consequences of such clashes and such bloodshed will certainly be harmful to Islam and the advancement of the Islamic movement in this country; the only party to benefit, more than any other, is the usurping Israel and its colonial occupationist forces. I am confident that under conditions when Muslims — especially the Muslim and wronged Lebanese nation — needs unity of expression and the strengthening of Islamic unity more than ever before in the face of the front of blasphemy and of israel, that all struggling forces, self-sacrificing Muslim youths, committed and influential figures in the region, and the Muslim governments which support the Islamic resistance in Lebanon, are worried about such incidents and such sectarian and domestic clashes between the struggling Lebanese Muslims and Palestinian Muslims, and are trying to end the hostility and bloodshed.

It is a source of great amazement and worry that, under minor pretexts, such incidents and events come to pass under such sensitive conditions. I request all the illustrious Muslim ulema and the committed Muslim and struggling clergymen of Lebanon — may almighty God bestow success upon them — to engage in extensive and vigorous efforts toward the maintenance of the unity of expression among Muslims and toward the prevention of the intensification of tribal and sectarian differences.

I beseech God almighty for the assistance and glorification of Islam and Muslims. Peace and blessings be upon you.

[signed] Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, 22 May 1985.

Embassy in Beirut Regrets 'Clashes' in City

LD221927 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] The Iranian Embassy in Beirut in a statement, while expressing its congratulations to Muslims on the start of the holy month of Ramadan, expressed its regrets for the clashes between various groups in Beirut and stressed the need to make use of all Muslim strength against the Zionists whose presence in the holy Jerusalem and in south Lebanon still continues.

Spanish Envoy Meets Velayati, Outlines Policy

LD222217 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] The new Spanish ambassador to Iran, yesterday, during a meeting with Velayati, our country's foreign minister, submitted his credentials.

At this meeting, the Spanish ambassador, while stressing the expansion of the relations between the two countries, stated Spain's readiness to expand such relations in the fields of economics, politics, and culture.

Refering to his sovereign country's support of the Central American countries, he stated: We have independent policies and do not heed the requests of the United States in connection with the economic embargo against some of the countries of this region.

Velayati, expressing his wishes for the success of the Spanish ambassador, praised Spain's position of not aligning itself with the hegemonist policies of the United States.

Rafsanjani Meets Social Welfare Workers

LD221119 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tuesday met participants at the seminar to study the application of social welfare work in the Islamic Republic system.

Praising the services of the social welfare workers, Rafsanjani said that those who try to serve the people and do not expect any services from others are few in number.

He stressed that when in a society the majority of people were those who wanted to serve others, there would be no sign of social corruption.

He expressed the hope that after a generation such a spirit of devotion will be generalised in the Iranian [words indistinct] the youth.

Joint Staff Communique Reports 21 May Actions

LD221629 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA — A Joint Staff communique number 2111 published here today said that on Tuesday Iran's Muslim combatants blasted two enemy howitzers and as much as 70 percent of an Iraqi concentration centre and one enemy truck along with its crew near Hajj 'Umran.

In the western fronts sporadic artillery fire was traded between the Iranian troops and the Iraqi forces on Tuesday, the Iranian troops maintaining their positions throughout the operations.

Meanwhile, many Iraqi soldiers were killed as several enemy patrol units were repelled near Qasr-e Shirin and Kani-Sakht on Tuesday in their effort to infiltrate the ranks of the Iranian positions.

Elsewhere in the southern fronts on Tuesday the Iranian forces opened fire on a column of the enemy forces inflicting heavy material losses and human casualties on them.

Air Force Attacks Iraqi Power Plant 23 May

LD230720 Tehran IRNA in English 0712 GMT 23 May 85

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA — Iran's jet fighters bombed Dukan power installations, northwest of Sulaymaniyah in Arbil Province, early Thursday morning in retaliation for the Tuesday's Iraqi aerial attacks against a number of Iranian economic establishments.

The Joint Staff Command, announcing this, said that the Iranian jet fighters, inflicting heavy damages on the Dukan power installations, returned to their base safely.

Deputy Minister Outlines Industrial Strategy

LD221729 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] Rasht, May 22, IRNA — The Ministry of Industries will only support those industrial plans that need no foreign currency except in cases where production is considered strategic, said the deputy minister of industries, Oyar Hoseyn, Wednesday.

He said the ministry has approved plans for the construction of 16,000 industrial units in the post-revolutionary era. Chemical, cement and celluloid units topped the list.

Hoseyn, who was inspecting the northern Rasht poplin factory, said the factory was producing 18 million meters of cloth a year, a 14 percent increase compared to the previous year.

He said production would go up to 40 million meters within the next two years.

Statement on Khorramshahr Liberation Anniversary

LD221752 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA — The third anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr was marked today in a joint statement by the Joint Staff Command of the Army, the Central Headquarters of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and the Islamic Revolution Shahid (Martyrs) foundation. The Beitolmoqaddas operation was the offensive in which Khorramshahr was liberated. The statement also praised the martyrs, disabled and those missing in action.

"On May 24, 1982, in the 3rd stage of the Beitolmoqaddas operation, the Islamic combatants managed to pass through Iraqi positions and fortifications and liberated the city of Khorramshahr at noon May 24. The statement went on to say that Iran's Muslim combatants proved that the launching of military, political and propaganda attacks by the arrogant forces cannot dampen the determination of a nation, to defend its rights.

The victorious Beitolmoqaddas operation started on April 30, 1982 and ended on May 24 with the liberation of more than 5,000 square kms of the occupied lands of the Islamic Republic. Some 20,000 Iraqi soldiers were captured and a considerable amount of military equipment were seized by the Islamic combatants.

NVOI: More on Tudeh-Feda'iyan-e Khalq Statement

TA221455 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1930 GMT 21 May 85

["Continuation of the main items of another part of the joint statement by the Iranian Tudeh Party Central Committee and the Central Committee of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq Iran Organization, Majority, entitled: "May the people's struggle for the overthrow of the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran be victorious"; date not given]

[Text] A. Transformation in the government organization:

1. The new republic of Iran will rely on the united front of national democratic forces of society — that is workers, peasants, small urban bourgeois, patriotic and progressive intellectuals, and certain layers of middle and small bourgeoise — and will be established on the basis of the voluntary unity of all the people's of Iran, as well as on the basis of equality.

2. The abolition of all laws negating the people's authority, and the preparation and approval of the necessary laws for the foundation of the country's political, economic, and social system.

3. The setting up of a consultative majlis as the foremost authority of power, in which the people's elected representatives will take part. The active participation of the masses of people in running the affairs of the country must be realized through councils of provinces, cities, towns, districts, and villages.

4. The majlis deputies and local governing organs will be elected by the people with popular, equal, direct, and secret voting.

5. The national democratic government will maintain judicial independence on the basis of democratic principles and election of judges.

6. Our homeland should have democratic defense and security armed forces. The republic's armed forces must enforce the people's will. For this reason, a fundamental revision should be made in the organization of the armed forces — whether defense or security forces.

Section B of the program is in connection with political, personal, and social rights and freedoms, in which while ensuring the free participation of all Iran's peoples in the political and social life; the mutual respect of their faiths, traditions, customs, national culture, and language; and the maintenance of democratic rights and freedoms, it is said: This is possible only when all national progressive social, political, and trade organizations — without any limitation or discrimination — will have the possibility of free activity to publish and propagandize their views. The program condemns any sort of monopolism, pressure, imposition of views, and discrimination by any authority or organization, and declares that all existing repressive and inquisition organs, as well as all laws and regulations inconsistent with democratic rights, must be abolished. Freedom of opinion, speech, the press, assembly, parties, demonstrations, strikes, and freedom of defense in the courts must be maintained. The full right to establish trade unions for all urban and rural workers and toilers must be recognized.

Section C of this program guarantees the freedom of all political prisoners, the immediate declaration that all charges and verdicts by Shari'a courts — whether military or civil — against strugglers on the path of freedom, independence, and social justice are null and void, the restoration of their reputation without exception, and the realization of their lost rights.

Section D of the program addresses the ethnic problem, in which the full right of the Iranian peoples to determine their destiny, the recognition of the right to self-government for the peoples residing in Iran, access to all their ethnic, social, and cultural rights, and the immediate end to the war of fratricide in Kordestan and compensation of the damages inflicted on the oppressed Kurdish people have been taken into consideration.

Section E of this program is about the economic system consisting of the three sectors — the public one, the cooperative one, and the private one — with priority for the public and cooperative sectors, and defining the scope of activity of the private sector under the government's control. In this section, among other things, the vital need to overthrow major capitalism and feudalism and the positions of imperialist monopolies in the country's economy, to implement fundamental land reform, and to revise the distribution of national revenue in favor of society's deprived is reiterated.

Section F of the program declares the need to end the war on the basis of a just and democratic peace.

Section G of the program is about foreign policy, stressing the need to defend the territorial integrity of the country and maintain and consolidate its political and economic independence; proposes the signing of an agreement of friendship and nonagression with all neighboring countries; supports the signing of a collective security pact in the Middle East and the whole of Asia; emphasizes moral and material support for revolutionary, national liberation and anti-imperialist movements, and defense of peace; and urges the adoption of a policy of nonalignment.

Section H of the program considers the special importance of a real improvement in the people's lives — workers, peasants, women, civil servants, youths, and tradesmen — and precisely defines the specific ways for improving the condition of these classes and strata of our society.

Section I of the program is related to culture and education, and training. In this section the eradication from the people's daily life of all traces of monarchical and medieval culture imposed by the regime, the expansion of a free network of education and training throughout the country, the protection of the national culture of ethnic peoples and minorities, a serious struggle for the elimination of illiteracy, the provision of necessary conditions for cultural creations, and the abolition of laws and regulations that prevent the progress of music, theater, and the genuine artistic collection, have been taken into consideration.

At the conclusion of the joint statement by the Iranian Tudeh Party Central Committee and the Central Committee of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq Iran Organization, Majority, it is said: These were the main items of a program which in our view can be accepted by all national democratic forces in the struggle for the regime's overthrow and the establishment of a national democratic republic. The present medieval regime is an obstacle to the development of our society, prevents the termination of the destructive war, and is the source of evil and corruption. As long as this regime is not removed from power, there can be no hope whatsoever for Iran's emergence from the present crisis and the achievement of a fundamental change in Iran's political and social situation. The way to Iran's salvation lies in the unity of all national democratic forces within a united front. One should learn from the past. Imperialism and internal reaction — both those who are in the government and those who have risen in the guise of a counterrevolutionary opposition — are trying with all their might to prevent the unity of genuine revolutionary forces. Only through unity and solidarity can this plot be foiled. The Iranian Tudeh Party and the Feda'iyan-e Khalq Iran Organization, Majority, will spare no effort for the establishment of a united popular front.

Briefs

Aid to Tanzania — Tehran, May 21, IRNA — The Iranian ship *Salam* carrying 2,483 tons of foodstuffs, medicine, medical

equipment, as well as a number of ambulances, buses and minibuses donated by the Iranians for the people of Tanzania and Zanzibar, docked at a port in Tanzania Monday. A Tanzanian official told IRNA that due to the Iraqi-imposed war, such a humanistic action by the Islamic Republic of Iran was very important for the Tanzanian people and Government. The consignment will be delivered Tuesday. The ship is due to depart for Zanzibar later. [Text] [*Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 21 May 85 LD*]

Biotechnology Conference Ends — Tehran, May 22, IRNA — The first congress on biotechnology and Iran's collection of micro-organisms concluded Tuesday May 21. In a resolution issued at the last session of the 4-day seminar, the attendants called on government and industrial-scientific institutes to promote science in Iran. [Excerpt] [*Tehran IRNA in English 1523 GMT 22 May 85 LD*]

Agricultural Production — The Central News Unit reports that 76,000 hectares of land have come under irrigated and dry farming for wheat production. Some 23,000 hectares of land is devoted to barley, which increases the production rate for these two grains by 10 percent compared with last year. The supervisor of the Center for Agricultural Services in Dezful, announcing the news, said: through the efforts of committed farmers and our providing them with the facilities they need, thus far more than 20 percent of their wheat has been bought and more will be bought. Commenting on the self-sufficiency of the farmers in Sar Dasht and [name indistinct] regarding cereal production, he said: Fortunately, because of the adequate rainfall and the good wheat crop this year, the farmers of this region have reached self-sufficiency. [Text] [*Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 May 85 LD*]